International Terrorism, discussions on which, as the 54th UN General Assembly has decided, will commence in September 2000.

At the bilateral level also, discussions on the need to tackle and eliminate terrorism forms an important part of agenda for deliberations with key countries.

Regional Initiatives to Tackle Terrorism

3579. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned ""Regional initiative needed to tackle terrorism" which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 26th January, 2000;

(b) whether a view was exressed that the forces fired by the ideologies of extremism/fanaticism and equipped with more lethal power are needed to be tackled urgently; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to tackle the growing menance of terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Government have seen the report appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 26th January, 2000.

(b) Pakistan and the Taliban controlled areas of Afghanistan are witnessing the spread of obscurantist ideologies, the expansion of narcotics trade and above all the pursuit of terrorism as State policy.

(c) Government remain firm in their resolve to take all necessary measures to preserve the security and terrotorial integrity of the country. Government have effectively and appropriately, also brought to the attention of the international community, Pakistan's support to cross-border terrorism and attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of India. Facts regarding Pakistan's State sponsorship of terrorism have been brought before several international fora and raised at high-level bilateral discussions with world leaders.

South African High Commissioner on Match-Fixing Scandal

3580. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South African High Commissioner was recently called in

his Ministry and informed about the Government's stand on the involvement of South African Cricket Team mates into match-fixing scandal;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held with her on the issue;

(c) whether the clarifications sought by the South African High Commissioner have been categorically denied; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The South African High Commissioner in New Delhi met a senior official in the Ministry of External Affairs on 10th April 2000, at her request.

(b) to (d) During the said meeting, the matter regarding the involvement of a South African cricket player in a matter of alleged match-fixing was also discussed, among other issues. Both sides agreed that in a case of criminal conspiracy, fraud anmd cheating filed by the Delhi Police, the law must be allowed to take its own course. The two sides also reiterated that this episode would not affect in any way the close and cordial relations between the two countries, who are committed to implementing a Strategic Partnership.

China's Naval Presence along the Western seaboard of Myanmar

3581. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that China has already established a naval presence along the Western Seaboard of Myanmar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that U.S. President, during his recent visit to Bangladesh, had sought its naval presence in the Bay of Bengal; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) there have been unconfirmed reports about the presence of some Chinese personnel in Myamnar primarily to assist Myanmar Naval personnel in training and maintenance of their ships. It may be recalled that Chinese have supplied Myanmar Navy with ships and weapon system. There has been considerable interaction in the field of Defence cooperation between the two countries.

(b) The Government has no information to this effect.